

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5

Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1
Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr. District No. 7
Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

The COMMITTEE ON FINANCE met on Monday, May 14, 2001, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, Councilmember District No. 5, Chairman; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2; Mr. William E. Crosby, Councilmember District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Councilmember District No. 4; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Councilmember District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Councilmember District No. 7; Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., Councilmember District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio; and Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney. Mr. Milton Farley, Councilmember District No. 1, was excused from this Committee meeting.

The requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been complied with by posting the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting of Berkeley County Council at the entrance to the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and a copy of such notice was mailed to all Councilmembers and the News media.

Chairman Vaughn called the meeting to order and stated first on the agenda was Dr. Casey Fitts, Medical Director of Tri-County Project Care, Re: Presentation of Project CARE.

Dr. Fitts stated that Tri-County Project Care is a program for the uninsured in Berkeley, Dorchester and Charleston Counties. In 1990 there were approximately 500,000 people in these three counties and 85 percent were uninsured. There is currently a little over 550,000 and over 100,000 are uninsured. The uninsured population is growing at a rate faster than the regular population. He stated they are currently in a position where they have about 18 percent of the population uninsured in these three counties. This program is to bring all of the counties' resources together to address this problem and start taking care of these people. Everybody is feeling the pinch and obviously, they are not doing a good job in primary preventive care. Businesses in the community are all seeing 15 to 20 percent increases in insurance premiums for the last three years. Dr. Fitts stated they had received funding from all four hospital systems in the Tri-County area, the Medical Society of South Carolina, and Charleston County for this calendar year, which is half through, toward building this program, applying for grants to get the infrastructure to start working July 1. He stated they wanted to give Council an update and express their appreciation of the input from Mr. Kennedy who has been in on their Committee. They invite anybody who has any interest in this to let them know and participate as well. They want this to

be our communities' effort to do this and they want to build this to our own needs. Dr. Fitts stated they certainly understand the financial constraints the County is under and he also understands they would not be getting any funds this year. They certainly would like to request that County Council continue to support them in spirit and would be available to work with them in the future.

Councilmember Crosby asked what happens to the people that don't have the money to pay for insurance? Dr. Fitts stated these people access health care through the Emergency rooms, where society basically says we've made law that you have to take care of them. They wait until they are sick because they can't afford to go to the doctor or the clinic; they go to the Emergency room and they are usually sicker than they would have been if they were taken care of earlier and it ends up costing the system more. He stated the hospitals, doctors, and other providers have to eat that. Councilmember Crosby asked are there no grants to support that? Dr. Fitts stated they are looking into all of those things. They have recently applied for a Federal Grant to help build the infrastructure for \$900,000. They are going to apply for a Duke Endowment Grant and a Robert Wilkes Johnson Grant. However, they would need funds to continue this long-term. The granting agencies want you to demonstrate that you can bring a community together and begin the programs; they want to give you money to help start it but they don't want you to count on them each year to provide a check. They want you to be able to develop something that can stand on its own two feet and that's certainly what they are looking to try to build.

Supervisor Rozier indicated to Dr. Fitts that he said there were 100,000 people currently uninsured; how many does this program project it would serve? Dr. Fitts stating they are setting up a pilot program that would only serve a few of these people. For example, 5,000 if they got \$10,000,000; and it doesn't look like they are going to get that much. He stated that is necessary for them to protect the program. The key to this would be setting up the community so that everybody knows what's going on, maximize their resources, and have the left hand know what the right hand is doing. Once they are able to demonstrate that they have done that, they should be much more competitive with bringing in outside funds and businesses that can't afford insurance, etc. Dr. Fitts stated many of these programs that were started around the Country have immediately gone under because the need is so great and they enroll more than they can handle. The infrastructure collapses under that and nothing is left. He stated it's going to be tough to get started. There are going to be a lot of people that are very needy that won't be eligible for care in the pilot program.

Supervisor Rozier asked Dr. Fitts was he familiar with the MIAP Program that this County puts in about \$350,000 a year; and Charleston puts about \$700,000 to a \$1,000,000. Dr. Fitts stated that between the three counties in the Tri-county Area, the counties give to the MIAP fund, which was initially set up for indigent applicants. Unfortunately, that's not what's happening with that money. That money goes to the State, and because of the good match the State got for Federal funds, 2 to 1, the monies that come from the three counties, which roughly comes out to about \$2,000,000, goes to the State. The State takes that money and applies it toward Medicaid match, which gets Federal dollars in. That \$2,000,000 turns into \$6,000,000 but that money is tied up because of the Federal Regulations; it has to be put into the Medicaid System. So, the money that these three counties had been putting into this program, presumably for the uninsured, is really to barely help keep our Medicaid Program alive. With the \$2,000,000 that's being put in for that, the three counties roughly get \$6,000,000 worth of Medicaid services. That doesn't touch any of the 18 percent or 100,000 uninsured people. Supervisor Rozier stated people sit in line in this building and they are evaluated according to State Regulations and

we decide whether they receive money for the medical bills or not, and these are uninsured. We send the money to the State but we approve them here based on the State's qualifications. Dr. Fitts stated those people must qualify for Medicaid in order to get that service. The 100,000 that are uninsured in the community are eligible for Medicaid and other services, and that's one of the things they want to do. For example, for last year, the minute that these people receive those benefits, they are classified in the Medicaid pool in this State. They are not counted in the 100,000 uninsured in the Tri-County region. Supervisor Rozier stated his suggestion had always been to talk to the State about the MIAP money and redirect it if it's not directed properly. Dr. Fitts stated they found that the \$2,000,000 that comes from the three counties comes back at \$6,000,000. The money is helping; otherwise, these people would be in the insured category. Dr. Fitts replied, correct, and the uninsured would be even higher than it is now. He stated our areas are so poor that we have that much uninsured plus that many people eligible for Medicaid as well. There is a percentage that he doesn't know but there is a group of patients that are eligible for Medicaid that are not enrolled. This is one of the things they would look to helping with; they've worked with Ann Hill with Medicaid to incorporate into this program to do that. Supervisor Rozier stated that when you talk about \$10,000,000 to serve 5,000 people, that would be \$2,000 per person. He stated you could buy insurance for \$2,000 per person. Dr. Fitts stated you could on demand buy it per individual. You can't pick who would be insured; you can't have a pool of 100,000 people and pick the 5,000 that are sick. Supervisor Rozier indicated they are going to pick the 5,000 they would serve. Dr. Fitts stated, correct, they are going to pick the sick ones because they would need the care. As they go along they hope that the cost per individual who are enrolled in the program would go down. He stated they are looking for business input; it has to make business sense or it's not going to survive. They need to put these people that don't have health care now, that are not getting preventive care, that are waiting until they are sick to access health care in the Emergency room, into a primary care home and have them get good primary preventive care. They have room in the system in the Tri-County area with the federally funded facilities and they are working closely with them to get these people into those homes. That would help the Tri-County area to also bring in extra Federal funds because those facilities get their money based on the volume of people they see. He stated that if they can get these people out of the Emergency rooms into these facilities it would fit their needs. They won't have to build extra buildings or hire new physicians to take care of them.

Councilmember Crosby asked how do they qualify for Medicaid? Supervisor Rozier stated they have to meet the Federal guidelines.

Dr. Fitts stated they look forward to Council's input and for this program to be successful it has to ultimately make business sense. There is a lot of reproduction of services in these communities; the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. He stated he was glad to hear about Berkeley County's Mental Health; there is a tremendous need.

Supervisor Rozier indicated to Dr. Fitts that the money being spent through MIAP is a possible resource. If it's not being used properly, it needs to be used properly. There is no use in \$2,000,000 going down the tubes if it could be used more frugal. Dr. Fitts stated the MIAP money, the money that is supposedly going to the uninsured, because of the match, they have redirected it in the State and have used that to help mostly Medicaid. Supervisor Rozier stated they would be uninsured if it wasn't for that fund. Dr. Fitts stated that would make the rates higher than they are.

Chairman Vaughn stated next on the agenda was Ms. Ginger Hamilton, Berkeley County Tax Collector, Re: Additional funds for department.

Ms. Hamilton stated she was respectfully requesting additional funds in the amount of \$20,000 to mail out approximately 8,000 delinquent tax notices.

Councilmember Spooner moved for approval; seconded by Councilmember Davis.

Supervisor Rozier stated this is done each year and every dime is recouped.

Upon call for the vote, the motion passed by voice vote of the Committee.

Item C, Review prior to Second Reading of the following:

Councilmember Davis asked that the Bills for Second Reading be read by title only.

Councilmember Mims stated she noticed that they were approaching Second Reading on the County's Budget, are they going to have a Budget Workshop this year? Chairman Vaughn stated that if there is something in the budget that requires a workshop they certainly would. Councilmember Mims asked could she request a workshop now? Chairman Vaughn asked was there a particular item she had? Councilmember Mims stated she hadn't seen the budget. Chairman Vaughn suggested to Councilmember Mims that she look over the budget when she gets it and if there were any items in question they would discuss those.

Supervisor Rozier stated the normal procedure is to have First and Second Reading before presenting the budget. Council then looks at the budget, a Public Hearing is scheduled, and then Third Reading.

1. Bill No. 01-13, an Ordinance providing appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for Berkeley County; to provide for levy of taxes on all taxable property in Berkeley County for all county purposes; to provide for the expenditures of said taxes and other revenues coming into the county for the fiscal year.

2. Bill No. 01-14, an Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for the Devon Forest Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Devon Forest Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

3. Bill No. 01-15, an Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for the Pimlico Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Pimlico Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

4. Bill No. 01-16, an Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for the Sangaree Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Sangaree Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

5. Bill No. 01-17, an Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for the Tall Pines Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Tall Pines Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

6. Bill No. 01-18, an Ordinance providing for the adoption of fiscal year (Beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002) budgets for the Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority and the Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority Solid Waste Fund; establishing operational debt service, an capital improvement budgets for water and sewer; and to provide for the expenditures of revenues coming into the Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority and the Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority Solid Waste Fund during the Fiscal Year, and to amend the Code of Ordinances, Berkeley County, South Carolina, setting rates, charges and penalties for water and sewer and solid waste service by the Berkley County Water and Sanitation Authority.

7. Bill No. 01-19, an Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for the operational budget of the Berkeley County Special Fire Tax District within the unincorporated portions of Berkeley County; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Special Fire Tax District during the fiscal year.

Councilmember Spooner moved for approval; seconded by Councilmember Crosby; and passed by voice vote of the Committee.

8. Bill No. 01-20, an Ordinance authorizing: (1) the execution and delivery of a real property fee in lieu of tax agreement between Berkeley County, South Carolina, (The "County") and Duck Pond Creek, LLC ("DPC") for lease to BlackBaud, Inc. ("Blackbaud") and/or Three Lions, LLC ("Three Lions") and a personal property fee in lieu of tax agreement between the County and Blackbaud; (2) payment by the DPC, Blackbaud and/or Three Lions of certain fees in lieu of a Ad Valorem Taxes; (3) the benefits of a multi-county park to be made available to the foregoing companies; (4) the benefits of certain special source credits; and (5) certain other matters relating thereto.

Councilmember Davis moved for approval; seconded by Councilmember Spooner; and passed by voice vote of the Committee.

Item D, Review prior to Third Reading of Bill No. 01-7, an Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of the transfer of authority for conducting municipal elections in the Town of Moncks Corner to the Berkeley County Voter Registration and Election Commission; to define the powers, duties and responsibilities assumed by the Berkeley County Voter Registration and Election Commission for the conduct of Municipal Elections in the Town of Moncks Corner; to provide for reimbursement of all costs and expenses incurred by the Berkeley County Voter Registration and Election Commission in the conduct of such municipal elections; and to provide for the other matters relating thereto.

Councilmember Davis moved for approval; seconded by Councilmember Spooner; and passed by voice vote of the Committee.

Councilmember Spooner moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember Crosby; and passed by voice vote of the Committee.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

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Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

There will be a Meeting of the COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, on Monday May 14, 2001, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, following the Committee on Public Works and Purchasing, the Committee on Land Use, the Committee on Water and Sanitation, the Committee on Human Services, the Committee on Community Services and the Committee on Justice and Public Safety, scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- A. Dr. Casey Fitts, Medical Director of Tri-County Project Care, Re: Presentation of Project CARE.
- B. Ms. Ginger Hamilton, Berkeley County Tax Collector, Re: Additional funds for department.
- C. Review prior to Second reading of the following:
 - 1. Bill No. 01-13, An Ordinance providing appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for Berkeley County; to provide for levy of taxes on all taxable property in Berkeley County for all county purposes; to provide for the expenditures of said taxes and other revenues coming into the county for the fiscal year.
 - 2. Bill No. 01-14, An Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for the Devon Forest Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Devon Forest special tax district during the fiscal year.
 - 3. Bill No. 01-15, An Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for the Pimlico Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Pimlico special tax district during the fiscal year.
 - 4. Bill No. 01-16, An Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for the Sangaree Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Sangaree Special Tax District during the fiscal year.

5. Bill No. 01-17, An Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for the Tall Pines Special Tax District operational budget; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Tall Pines Special Tax District during the fiscal year.
 6. Bill No. 01-18, An Ordinance providing for the adoption of fiscal year 2001-2002 (Beginning July 1, 2001 and ending June 30, 2002) budgets for the Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority and the Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority Solid Waste Fund; establishing operational, debt service, and capital improvement budgets for water and sewer; and to provide for the expenditures of revenues coming into the Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority and the Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority Solid Waster Fund during the Fiscal Year, and to amend the Code of Ordinances, Berkeley County, South Carolina, setting rates, charges and penalties for water and sewer and solid waste service by the Berkeley County Water and Sanitation Authority.
 7. Bill No. 01-19, An Ordinance providing for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, for the operational budget of the Berkeley County Special Fire Tax District within the unincorporated portions of Berkeley County; and to provide for the expenditures of the revenues received by the Special Fire Tax District during the fiscal year
 8. Bill No. 01-20, An Ordinance authorizing: (1) the execution and delivery of a real property fee in lieu of tax agreement between Berkeley County, South Carolina, (The "County") and Duck Pond Creek, LLC ("DPC") for lease to BlackBaud, Inc. ("Blackbaud") and/or Three Lions, LLC ("Three Lions") and a personal property fee in lieu of tax agreement between the County and Blackbaud; (2) payment by the DPC, Blackbaud and/or Three Lions of certain fees in lieu of a Ad Valorem Taxes: (3) the benefits of a multi-county park to be made available to the foregoing companies; (4) the benefits of certain special source credits; and (5) certain other matters relating thereto.
- D. Review prior to Third Reading of Bill No. 01-7, An Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of the transfer of authority for conducting municipal elections in the Town of Moncks Corner to the Berkeley County Voter Registration and Election Commission; to define the powers, duties and responsibilities assumed by the Berkeley County Voter Registration and Election Commission for the conduct of Municipal Elections in the Town of Moncks Corner; to provide for reimbursement of all costs and expenses incurred by the Berkeley County Voter Registration and Election Commission in the conduct of such municipal elections; and to provide for other matters relating thereto.

May 9, 2001
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk of County Council